

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGULATORY INTEGRITY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5226) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to HR 5226, the Regulatory Integrity Act of 2016.

The Regulatory Integrity Act seeks to bar a federal agency from promoting or soliciting public support for its actions, such as proposed regulatory rules. Under current law, agencies are already prohibited from spending funds on publicity or propaganda lobbying, but in some cases agencies may communicate with the public regarding the benefits of a rule. If this bill becomes law, any such action could be interpreted as illegal. Further troubling, the bill requires an agency to report each of its communications with the public on the rules about which the Agency has been most vocal. Such an effort will dramatically increase the cost of Federal rulemaking to the public.

In my opposition to this bill, I associate myself with the remarks of Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS who said, "Agencies already are barred from engaging in 'substantial grassroots lobbying campaigns' when those campaigns are aimed at encouraging members of the public to pressure Members of Congress to support the Administration or department legislative or appropriation proposals. The bill would require agencies to report to Congress every communication to the public—including every oral communication from an agency official—about the five regulatory actions the agency issued the most communications on in the previous year. This would be unnecessarily burdensome and likely would not be workable for agencies."

The Administration also opposes the bill, threatening a veto on the grounds that the measure is "duplicative, vague, costly and puts unnecessary procedure requirements on agencies that would prevent them from efficiently performing their statutory responsibilities and potentially lead to a less informed public."

The public has a right to know how a proposed regulation will affect them personally and the agency issuing that regulation is uniquely qualified to offer the data necessary to make that determination. In the absence of such information, the public will be at the mercy of any well-funded special interest or high priced lobbyist who might want to defeat regulations that protect the public interest, but not their profits.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL E. KUNZ

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Michael E. Kunz to our federal court system. Mr. Kunz retired this past July after more than forty years of service in the Eastern Judicial District of Pennsylvania, including more than 37 years as its chief clerk.

Mr. Kunz was respected and beloved by all who had business before the court—judges, prosecutors, attorneys and others—and he left an indelible mark in the halls of the courthouse in Philadelphia.

During Mr. Kunz's tenure as chief clerk—the longest of any clerk in the history of the Eastern District—he oversaw unprecedented growth, expansion and modernization of the court. On the day of Michael's appointment in 1979, there were just 24 judges and some 50 employees within the Clerk's Office. Today, there are nearly twice as many judges and more than 200 employees facilitating the day-to-day operation of the judicial system.

I had the privilege of serving with Michael during my own tenure as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District. I was always impressed by his tireless commitment, his ability and his loyalty to the court he served. I'm proud to call him my friend. I wish him the best in his retirement and I commend him for his decades of service.

HONORING BODEGA MARINE LABORATORY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the University of California, Davis' Bodega Marine Laboratory upon its 50th anniversary. Seated on the 362-acre Bodega Marine Reserve within the University's Natural Reserve System, which supports the highest number of research projects of any reserve in the state and arguably in the nation, the Bodega Marine Laboratory is the primary open-coast research facility along the California coast.

Since its founding in 1966 by the University of California, Berkeley, this instrumental coastal and marine sciences laboratory has educated thousands of students, coordinated hundreds of projects with local and state agencies and has conducted outreach education initiatives in local communities. The Bodega Marine Laboratory's history of research, education,

and outreach has contributed substantially to the strength of California's habitats.

The Bodega Marine Laboratory's interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to addressing California's unique environmental challenges has established California as a prime example of what we can accomplish through coordinated efforts to protect our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we congratulate the Bodega Marine Laboratory upon its 50th anniversary, and thank its leadership and staff for their invaluable contributions to our environment and community.

GROWTH AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, September 19–23, as Growth Awareness Week in order to realize the reality of growth disorders and their impact on our children's health.

Monitoring growth is a major sign of a child's overall health and physical development. When a child's growth is delayed, it is an early indicator of potential underlying medical disorders. According to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations (POSSUM) database, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions cause growth failure. These diseases range from nutritional disturbances and hormone imbalances to serious conditions such as unidentified kidney problems and even brain tumors that can all exhibit early signs by changing how much that child grows. Too many children with serious growth disorders are not receiving the medical attention they need because their condition is not caught at an early age. In fact, 48 percent of children in the U.S. who were evaluated with the two most common causes of growth failure went undiagnosed.

The longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for damage and higher costs of care. Early detection and diagnosis are crucial in ensuring a healthy future for a child with growth failure. Therefore, raising public awareness of, and educating the public about growth failure is a vital public service.

Growth Awareness Week is a key tool in educating families on their children's health, and I would like to thank the tremendous efforts of the MAGIC Foundation for their incredible work in furthering public awareness and understanding of growth failure. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the lives and health of children.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, Monday, October 10 is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day. Since this body will not be in session that day, I would like to offer my early best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

Taiwan is a close trade partner and ally of the US in the Asia-Pacific region. A fine example of the trade relationship between Taiwan and the U.S. is Formosa Plastics Corporation, a Taiwanese company heavily invested in the district I represent. They are a major employer in the region and are actively involved in the community.

Last year, Eva Air, one of the biggest Taiwanese airlines, launched the direct flight route between Houston, Texas and Taipei, Taiwan, and will soon be offering direct flights between Dallas/Ft. Worth and Taipei. These flights shore up the business and cultural ties between Taiwan, Texas and the entire U.S.

I am glad to see closer trade ties between Taiwan and the US. It is my belief Taiwan should be included in the International Civil Aviation Organization (I-C-A-O), which works to secure the civil aviation throughout the world. The ICAO's 39th Triennial Assembly will meet in Montreal on September 27. I hope that Taiwan will be invited to attend the Assembly as it was three years ago.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day, and I look forward to working closely with Taiwanese people to further enhance our bilateral relations.

RECOGNIZING ODESSA COLLEGE'S
DESIGN FOR COMPLETION PRO-
GRAM**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Odessa College for being named a Finalist in Excellence in Education. This honor was bestowed on Odessa College for their work in raising retention rates through their Design for Completion program.

Starting in 2011, Odessa College created a framework to provide meaningful connections and engagements between their students and faculty. Design for Completion is focused on the student and their success in the classroom and beyond. This initiative places students on a distinct and coherent pathway that provides the necessary support and resources vital to their collegiate careers.

Since implementing Design for Completion, retention and student success rates have dramatically increased across campus, especially among Hispanic students. Through this program, Odessa College has instilled confidence in their students by showing them that they can accomplish any goal that they set out to conquer. Odessa College hopes that this program serves as a model that other higher education institutions can use to help other students succeed in their academic studies.

A strong education system contributes greatly to the success and growth of our country, and is the key to not only our individual achievement, but also to our competitiveness as a nation. Programs like Design for Completion helps our nation achieve these goals and reach our fullest potential. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent Odessa College and wish them continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BELLEVUE COL-
LEGE**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bellevue College and its great work toward educating students in my home state of Washington.

Bellevue College was founded in 1966 as a small community college with fewer than 500 students. Fifty years later, it has grown into two campuses with an enrollment of nearly 33,000 students each year, becoming Washington's largest community college.

Throughout its tremendous growth, Bellevue College has remained committed to providing all students with access to affordable, quality higher education.

Today, the institution's students are able to take advantage of nearly 100 different professional and technical programs or pursue one of the 10 bachelor degrees offered by the college.

I would like to thank all of the school's faculty, staff and administrators for their hard work and commitment to helping their students and the college succeed.

Bellevue College has done a remarkable job preparing its students for the future, and I look forward to seeing what the next 50 years hold. Happy anniversary to the entire Bellevue College community.

ERITREA: A NEGLECTED
REGIONAL THREAT**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the citizens of Eritrea, then a province of Ethiopia, voted to become an independent nation. Ethiopia had annexed Eritrea in 1962, and its citizens no doubt believed they were well on their way to controlling their destiny. Unfortunately, their hopes would soon be dashed. Elections have been repeatedly postponed, and opposition political parties are no longer able to organize.

Those same initial hopes for democracy and good government in Eritrea also were held by the international community. In a March 1997 report on the U.S. Agency for International Development program in Eritrea, the American aid agency had high praise for its collaboration with the Eritrean government: "Over the past year, the young state of Eritrea continued its exciting and pace-setting experiment in nation-

building, and, similarly, USAID/Eritrea established itself as Eritrea's leading development partner."

Within a few years, the Government of Eritrea ended its relationship with USAID, but this decision was originally taken as a sign that Eritrea was ready to become an example to the rest of the developing world by managing its own humanitarian needs. Yet Eritrea's government instead merely became less open, and when an East African drought occurred in 2011, we knew very little about how Eritreans were faring. Today, we know that two-thirds of Eritreans live on subsistence agriculture, which has had poor yields due to recurring droughts and low productivity.

What we also know is that Eritrea's citizens are living under a regime that does not honor their human rights. In June of this year, the UN Human Rights Council released a report that accused the Government of Eritrea with a variety of violations, including extrajudicial executions, torture, indefinitely prolonged national service and forced labor, and sexual harassment, rape and sexual servitude by state officials.

In its Trafficking in Persons Report from June 2016, the State Department listed Eritrea as "Tier 3" and stated, "Eritrea is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor . . . the government did not investigate, prosecute, or convict trafficking offenders during the reporting year . . . the government demonstrated negligible efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims . . . the government maintained minimal efforts to prevent trafficking."

In their most recent International Religious Freedom Report, the State Department listed Eritrea as a Country of Particular Concern. Moreover, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom lists Eritrea as a Tier 1 Country of Particular Concern for its egregious religious freedom violations. Eritrea's government interferes with the internal affairs of registered religious groups and represses the religious liberty of those faith groups it refuses to register, such as Evangelical and Pentecostal Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and Muslims who do not follow the government-appointed head of the Islamic community. Furthermore, the government has a record of arbitrary arrests of believers and their leaders and reportedly tortures those in prolonged detention.

As a result of the authoritarian government's actions, Eritrea is considered one of the world's fastest emptying nations, with about half a million of the country's citizens having left their homes for often dangerous paths to freedom. An estimated 5,000 Eritreans leave their country each month.

In a July 9, 2015, hearing by our subcommittee on African refugees, John Stauffer, President of the America Team for Displaced Eritreans, told us that Eritrean Government officials operated freely in eastern Sudan, arresting and bringing back to Eritrea those they considered high-value targets among refugees, such as government officials or church leaders. He also testified that refugees moving east may be kidnapped and extorted locally for a few thousand dollars, or taken off to Egypt or Libya where they are abused. That abuse often included organ harvesting.

In the past year, the world has witnessed a flood of Eritrean refugees risking their lives on

too-often unseaworthy boats bound for Europe. The prevalence of Eritreans among refugees has been overshadowed by refugees from the Middle East, especially Syria. The United Kingdom, one of the prime destinations for Eritrean refugees, apparently wanted to slow down the flow of Eritreans into the country. Earlier this year, the UK reduced the percentage of Eritrean asylum claims from 95 percent to 28 percent.

Directly addressing the root causes of the flight of Eritreans seems a better policy than trying to determine the final destination of Eritreans who feel forced to leave home. That means an enhanced level of communication between Eritrea's government and the international community. There have been quiet contacts between Eritrea's government, the U.S. Government, and civil society. A hearing I convened yesterday examined how such contacts have developed.

Can the United States form a relationship with a government it has under sanction?

Does the dire situation in which Eritrea's people live require an alteration of U.S. policy?

What would a change in policy mean for the international effort to hold Eritrea's government responsible for blatant human rights violations?

These and other questions must be answered before there is any policy adjustment toward Eritrea.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a very special POW/MIA memorial dedication ceremony taking place in my home town of Lakeland, Florida.

As flags are raised across America this week in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we must stand united as a nation remembering and honoring those captured and those who have gone missing while serving our great country, as well as their loved ones. Today, as in every day, we shall live by the POW/MIA flag's creed: You Are Not Forgotten.

No other country has devoted as much energy and as many resources to account for its missing or captured like the United States of America. Our debt to American prisoners of war, those missing in action, and the families of these brave soldiers can never truly be repaid.

America's service members are the backbone of the freedom and prosperity this country has been blessed with for more than two hundred years. The sacrifices made by these courageous and selfless men and women in uniform, on behalf of perfect strangers, embodies the American spirit of patriotism.

Few among us will ever understand the pain and fear associated with knowing a loved one is captured or missing in a warzone across the globe. We as a nation must join together to honor those who have sacrificed so greatly today, and every day. Without their sacrifices, we would not be able to enjoy the liberties we are blessed with today. Let us never take for

granted their selfless protection of our great nation and its people.

May God continue to watch over our valiant soldiers, and return them safely home, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

PRESIDENT OBAMA ENDANGERS U.S. CITIZENS BY CLOSING GITMO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sitting in Guantanamo Bay are cold-blooded, calculating terrorists that have either already killed Americans or had planned to do so. The high-security prisoners that remain at GITMO committed some of the most repulsive crimes known to all of us.

Despite this fact, this Administration—since literally day one—has promised to close GITMO all together and release these terrorists back into the world. Mr. Speaker, why would we do that?

Many of the terrorists we have released have re-entered the battlefield. The Administration even admitted earlier this year that at least 12 former detainees were implicated in attacks overseas against Americans and our allies—and those are just the ones we know of. So why would we continue to let terrorists go?

Mr. Speaker, I have been to GITMO. Most Americans would be surprised to know it's actually nicer than most facilities we have here in the states. GITMO has soccer fields, volleyball courts, table tennis, you name it.

It also has new medical facilities and new dental facilities. When I visited GITMO, I ate the same meal the prisoners did, and the food was good.

But the Administration is more concerned with the President's legacy than global safety and the potential victims of these prisoners' attacks. I do not think the White House has its priorities straight.

That's why I'm happy to support Congresswoman WALORSKI's efforts to prohibit the transfer of any detainees from GITMO. Transferring detainees from Guantanamo endangers American citizens, and it endangers our national security. Put simply, it is a bad idea.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF LTC CHARLES S. KETTLES

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recent Medal of Honor recipient, LTC Charles S. Kettles. LTC Kettles will be honored at the Fort Wolters Historical Park's Medal of Honor Day in Mineral Wells, Texas on September 17, 2016. This ceremony recognizes the lives of individuals who were stationed at Fort Wolters at some point in their career and received our nation's highest military commendation.

On May 15, 1967, Charles was serving as the Flight Commander of the 176th Aviation Company in the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, American Division near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. On that day, an airborne infantry unit came under heavy enemy fire and suffered casualties. Charles immediately volunteered to lead a flight of six UH-1D helicopters to carry reinforcements to the embattled force and evacuate his wounded brothers. Upon arriving at the landing zone, Charles and his crew faced a savage barrage of enemy fire that inflicted heavy damage to their fleet. Despite all of this, Charles refused to depart until all helicopters were loaded to capacity. With his aircraft severely damaged and leaking fuel, Charles skillfully guided his helicopter back to base.

Later that day, the Infantry Battalion Commander requested immediate, emergency extraction of the remaining 40 soldiers that were stranded after their helicopter was downed by enemy fire. Again, Charles volunteered to lead a flight of six evacuation helicopters to return back to the deadly landing zone, making this his third trip that day. During the extraction, Charles was told that all personnel were accounted for and he, along with his team and Army gunships, left the battlefield.

Shortly after departing, Charles was informed that eight troops had been unable to reach the evacuation helicopters due to being pinned down by intense heavy fire. With complete disregard for his safety, Charles passed the lead to another helicopter and reversed course back to the landing zone. Without any artillery and tactical support, enemy forces concentrated all firepower on Charles' helicopter. His aircraft was immediately damaged by a mortar round that shattered his front windshields and the body of the helicopter was riddled with small arms and machine gun bullets. Despite these circumstances, Charles was able to buy enough time to allow the remaining eight soldiers to board the helicopter. Once in the air, Charles was able to safely guide his severely mangled aircraft back to the base.

Without LTC Kettles' heroic deeds that day, the dozens of soldiers he had saved would not have come home to their loved ones. His selfless acts of valor exemplified the values of honor and service that makes our nation's military the finest in the world. It is with great pleasure and honor that I am able to share his story with all of my colleagues in the House.

HONORING SHELLEY KESSLER, RETIRED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER, SAN MATEO COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of an outstanding woman leader in San Mateo County, Ms. Shelley Kessler. She is leaving her position as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, a position that she has held—and honored through her exemplary leadership—for twenty years. I am honored to call Shelley a trusted friend.

She is a remarkable leader in public policy. She is a person who is willing to listen and to

compromise, but she is also capable of holding the line when she seeks justice for those whom she services. No one would ever accuse Shelley Kessler of being a shrinking violet. However, she also seeks progress on behalf of the working men and women of San Mateo County without seeking credit for herself. In short, she is a forceful, thoughtful advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and for long-term public policies that benefit all San Mateo County workers.

Shelley has two bachelor's degrees from Sonoma State University and spent a year in law school. She was a trailblazer in the auto manufacturing workforce as she was hired by General Motors in 1977 during a time when the company was under a consent decree requiring it to hire more women. She worked as a spot welder on an assembly line and eventually was elected to a full-time position in the United Auto Workers. She later moved to Westinghouse Electric, working as a mechanic on turbines, generators and marine ordinance. While she was working at Westinghouse, she was also elected to leadership positions in Machinists Union Local 565.

Fortune shined on San Mateo County when Shelley applied for a job at our local labor council. She led a strong and responsive team and built relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. Her intellect, thorough understanding of issues and willingness to negotiate are legendary.

For example, San Francisco International Airport is one of the largest employers in San Mateo County. The 45,000 workers throughout this giant complex have Shelley and her partners at the labor council to thank for the outstanding working conditions that the airport director has informed me contribute to security throughout the facility. Instead of having an ever-rotating list of tens of thousands of persons with access to these critical facilities, people who enter the labor force at the airport—whether through the airport itself or various vendors—are assured a living wage and decent benefits. This directly contributes to a stable workforce that treasures the airport and honors its need for security.

Shelley also led the way in establishing PALCARE for airport workers and the surrounding community, an innovative child care center that allows working families with unusual work hours to have a safe place for childcare. She is also a leading advocate for affordable housing and affordable health care. She donates her time to the American Heart Association and to KQED, our local public television and radio affiliate, and she has preserved and strengthened the UC Berkeley Labor Center.

She has served as Vice President of the California Labor Federation, and was once selected as "Woman Labor Leader of the Year" by the federation. She has also been inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame. She gets her greatest joy from her husband Dennis, a retired firefighter who discovered that being with Shelley was a step up from the energy needed to extinguish a massive blaze. The man is as cool as Shelley is hot.

Mr. Speaker, San Mateo County has had many leading citizens over the decades, including such historical figures as the founder of the Bank of America or the CEOs of giant

social media sites. Thankfully, we also have had a thoughtful, honorable advocate for working women and men: Shelley Kessler. We are losing a leader but gaining an adventurous retiree. It's doubtful that the county will ever be the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 505, on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 I was delayed on my way to the U.S. House of Representatives floor and missed the first vote of the series—Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 863. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE IRON MEN HEALTH FAIR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Iron Men Health Fair being held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Central Georgia Technical College in Macon, Georgia. Hosted by Macon-Bibb County, the Macon Chapter of the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition, and their partners, the Iron Men Health Fair is the manifestation of Middle Georgia's mission to improve health and wellness for men. Throughout the duration of the fair, the men of Middle Georgia will have access to a plethora of health and wellness resources, including screenings for glucose, hypertension, cholesterol, vision, hearing, body mass index, HIV, and prostate cancer.

In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, the Iron Men Health Fair will help in the fight to defeat prostate cancer—the second leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. Prostate cancer is a complex disease that can take several forms. Some forms of this cancer are non-life-threatening, but other forms can be extremely aggressive and lethal. These subtypes of prostate cancer take more than 29,000 lives each year. In Georgia alone, 5,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year and approximately 1,000 of those men will die from the disease. For African-American men, prostate cancer is 1.6 times more common and 2.4 times more deadly than for Caucasian men.

Although prostate cancer has been a story of heartbreak and tragedy for so many, it can also be one of great hope. If diagnosed early, men with prostate cancer have a 100 percent survival rate five years out. And at ten years after diagnosis, 98 percent of men who were diagnosed early remain alive and have the opportunity to lead healthy, happy lives for years to come.

This year, President Barack Obama has again declared September to be National

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. This month is meant to be a time dedicated to being aware, staying informed, and making proactive decisions in the fight against this all-too-common disease. According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, early detection is the key to defeating this disease, especially for men over the age of 40. The Iron Men Health Fair embodies that mission. No cancer, especially prostate cancer, should be considered as a death sentence. With early detection, prostate cancer can be a curable and treatable disease. Getting tested regularly for prostate cancer and taking one's health seriously should not be taboo for any man. Every American deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy life.

During the month of September, we want to honor the lives we have lost to prostate cancer, highlight how far we have come, and redouble our efforts in beating prostate cancer once and for all through continued awareness and breakthrough research. The Iron Men Health Fair collaborators' commitment to ending prostate cancer is a worthwhile one as they had over 300 men attend and participate in the fair last year. The fair may very well play an important role in saving the lives of many men this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Iron Men Health Fair, Macon-Bibb County, the Macon Chapter of the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition, and their partners for their commitment to promoting prostate cancer awareness as well as the general health and wellbeing for the men of Middle Georgia.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families, who continue to grieve their loss.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Friday, September 16, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, at present there are more than 82,000 Americans missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and other conflicts.

In fact, from Pinellas County, Florida alone, there are five Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War: Christos Bogiages of Clearwater, Jack DeCaire of St. Petersburg, Carl Laker of Clearwater, Dennis Neal of Tarpon Springs, and Jan Nelson of Clearwater.

As a nation, let us never forget those who were left behind, and let us continue to pursue every available effort to bring home all of our men and women who have served this great country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering those who have not yet returned from the battlefield, and let us, as a nation, always recognize their great sacrifice.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEWLY UNVEILED NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to the memory of the armed soldiers who resisted communism in Poland during the period between 1944 and 1963, men and women who are referred to as the "Doomed Soldiers." The monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was unveiled on September 18, 2016 and respectfully dedicated to those who fought and defended Poland against the aggressive occupation by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The monument honoring these patriots was erected by the Smolensk Disaster Commemoration Committee with the help of many Polish Americans. Historically, the fight for freedom began in 1939. The brave Polish people continued to struggle for independence, underground, also opposing the communist regime in the post-World War II era. The monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa is a way to preserve their place in Poland's history. On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Andrzej Duda, president of the Republic of Poland. I offer my sincerest gratitude for his presence at the dedication on September 18, 2016 and for representing today's Polish citizens who steadfastly honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom they enjoy today.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM O'DONNELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Jim O'Donnell who has been a pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente for 35 years. For the last 16 years he served in a vital leadership role as Physician-in-Chief at the Redwood City Medical Center. Jim is everything a patient can hope for in a physician. He is brilliant, warm, funny, and up to date on the latest research and technology. In addition to his pediatric caseload, Dr. O'Donnell cared for my parents and I could not have imagined a more skilled physician to offer care to them.

Dr. O'Donnell is a visionary. He led the negotiations and planning for the new Redwood City hospital that opened in December 2014. At the ribbon cutting, Kaiser CEO Bernard Tyson noted that he was initially skeptical of the proposal for a new hospital. Now I ask everyone to imagine a poker game between Jim O'Donnell and Bernard Tyson. Let me assure you that it was never an even match. Jim bluffed many times, and eventually Bernard Tyson was forced to fold. South County Kaiser patients won the pot, and it was quite lucrative—perhaps a bit costly for Mr. Tyson—but the hospital is truly amazing.

In addition to its ultra-modern equipment, the hospital offers green architecture and a

soothing environment filled with warm colors and beautiful artwork. The hospital is also a designated stroke center. The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have awarded it the "Get With The Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award" for providing patients with the best possible care. U.S. News & World Report named it a high performing hospital for neuroscience.

Planning a new hospital and seeing patients wasn't enough, and thus Jim was also instrumental in opening the San Mateo Medical Offices in 2011. He is always looking for new and creative ways to improve care for patients. Jim O'Donnell is Kaiser's Johnny Appleseed of clinic and hospital construction. I suspect that his name is well known by Kaiser's capital allocation committee, and most likely because Jim is as prudent with Kaiser's construction dollars as he is with the health of his patients.

Dr. O'Donnell grew up in a small farming community in Iowa. His interest in public service and his honing of great people skills began early when he worked in his father's general store. He developed a deep fascination with science. Combining those three ingredients naturally led him to medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Iowa, College of Medicine in Iowa City. He completed his medical internship and residency at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is also a 1998 graduate of the Kenan Flagler School of Business Advanced Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The reason he chose pediatrics is obvious. He loves children. His awe watching young children grow up and his passion to help them develop into productive and healthy adolescents are palpable.

After he finished his residency in 1980, Jim moved to the Bay Area. He chose Kaiser Permanente because he liked its preventative focus and its integrated model of care. We are immensely fortunate that Jim settled here and made Redwood City his home with his husband, Michael, and he says his most joyful experience in life is time with his two daughters, Emma and Audie.

For 15 years, Jim O'Donnell has served on Redwood City 2020, a partnership among the City of Redwood City, the elementary and high school districts, San Mateo County, Stanford University, the Sequoia Healthcare District and Kaiser Permanente designed to support the success of all youth and families and to engage and strengthen the community. Jim's strategic thinking, problem-solving ability and passion have benefited everyone in that partnership and our community at large. In his well-deserved retirement, Jim will enjoy more time with his family and finally have more time to read, hike, cook and take advantage of our great Bay Area restaurants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Dr. Jim O'Donnell, a top-notch doctor, devoted family man, and extraordinary human being who I am very fortunate to call my good friend. While he is leaving Kaiser Permanente, he leaves behind a first-class hospital with a world-class medical team. His vision for a healthy Redwood City has come alive under his stewardship. His child—the hospital—and the staff that animate the child will now say farewell to their father, but the lessons learned from Jim's instruction will save lives for decades yet to come.

HONORING EL CONCILIO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and honor El Concilio, the Council for the Spanish Speaking, for their participation in the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week, taking place this October.

Since October 2001, El Concilio has led the Binational Health Week of Stanislaus County in a collaborative effort with a number of partner organizations, including the Tzu Chi Foundation and the Health Initiative of the Americas. This unprecedented effort is overseen by multi-agency taskforces, and conducts health promotion and education activities for the Latino population in the United States. To date, over 1,000,000 people in our country have benefited from the health care activities provided during the Binational Health Week.

Binational Health Week represents an international effort between the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Uruguay and Peru to improve the quality of life for members of underserved populations by expanding their access to health care, increasing their health insurance coverage, and addressing their unmet health needs.

The Health Initiative of the Americas, and the consular network here in the United States, are coordinating the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week. Activities throughout the country will be centered on the communities that have a high level of need for accessible health care.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending El Concilio upon their efforts to improve public health for the Latino community by participating in the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week.

COMMEMORATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER HANOVER TOWNSHIP

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the residents, businesses and Board of Supervisors of Upper Hanover Township as they celebrate 275 years as a municipality in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Settled by German-speaking immigrants seeking religious tolerance and economic opportunity, Upper Hanover Township was formally incorporated in 1741. During the Township's early years, agriculture thrived thanks to the rich soil and skilled German farmers. The building construction industry blossomed as a result of an abundance of granite boulders mined from the Hosensack Hills and easily-accessible water from the Perkiomen Creek, which powered five gristmills and four sawmills.

Today, more than 7,100 people call Upper Hanover Township home. At just over 21 square miles, Upper Hanover is geographically

the fourth-largest Township in Montgomery County. And the Township ranks second in Montgomery County with just more than 1,500 acres of permanently preserved farmland. The major employers in the Township include Blommer Chocolate, the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate supplier in North America, and Knoll Inc., a modern home and office furniture manufacturer.

The community will commemorate the Township's 275th anniversary on Saturday, September 17, 2016 during a day of activities in Camelot Park. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the residents, business owners and community leaders as Upper Hanover marks this memorable milestone.

IN MEMORY OF MARK VALENTE
III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected in 2001, I am grateful Mark and Claudia Valente were among the first to give me and Roxanne counsel on service to the public. The following obituary is a fitting tribute to his service for American families. I especially appreciate his affection for Italian-American heritage with my son recently completing a three year tour in Italy with my three Italian-speaking grandchildren:

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Mark Valente III passed away in his home in Springfield, VA on August 3, 2016. Mark was born July 27, 1956, in Detroit, MI. He graduated in 1974 from University Liggett School, earned an accounting degree from his beloved Villanova University, class of 1978, then went on to earn a Law Degree from the University of Detroit School of Law.

Mark left Grosse Pointe in 1984 to work in the Office of Public Liaison at the White House under President Ronald Reagan. In 1986, he became the Director, Coalition Development Department at the Republican National Committee. In 1989 Mark worked as Director, in the Office of Congressional Relations, at the US Office of Personnel Management for President George H.W. Bush.

After leaving government service, Mark formed a Washington, DC based government relations firm, Valente & Associates, providing legislative analysis and government relations advice. He worked there until his death. Mark was elected to the Grosse Pointe Park city council at age 24, the youngest in the city's history and was the president of the Detroit Young Republicans during that time.

Most recently Mark, a proud grandson of Italian immigrants who emigrated from Abruzzo, Italy, served on the national board of the National Italian American Foundation where he held the leadership role as chairman of the Public Policy and Government Relations Committee and was a board member of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Also, he chaired the Board of the Center for Marketing and Public Policy Research at Villanova University School of Business.

Mark was a long-time supporter of the Baseball Hall of Fame (HOF) and a member of its Champions Program. He was a frequent

host of and participant in the HOF events in Washington, DC and other baseball cities. A member of the Detroit Athletic Club, Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC, and Springfield Golf and Country Club in VA. Mark was a devoted Detroit Tigers fan and loved to play golf with his friends. He also was a coach and umpire for Little League and Grosse Pointe Park Babe Ruth league.

Mark is survived by his wife Claudia (Barker), mother Maria (Ballerini), father Marco Jr., brothers: JB, Richard, Dean, and brother-in-law Craig Barker, nieces and nephew and twelve godchildren. Mark was predeceased by his grandparents Ballerini and Valente.

A memorial service is planned at St. Clair of Montefalco Catholic Church, located at the corner of Mack Avenue and Outer Drive in Grosse Pointe Park on August 25th at 10:30 am. Visitation at 10 am. A second memorial service will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 2:00 pm at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 313 2nd Street SE, Washington, DC. Followed by a reception at the Capitol Hill Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be directed to the scholarship being established in the name of Mark Valente III at Villanova University School of Business, ATTN: Clay Center at VSB, 800 E. Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085.

THE RETIREMENT OF AIRPORT
DIRECTOR JOHN MARTIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Martin upon his retirement as the Airport Director of San Francisco International Airport. Mr. Martin is leaving his position after 21 years at the helm, and after 36 years working in various capacities for the airport commission.

SFO is a rapidly expanding enterprise, directly or indirectly employing 45,000 people. John Martin is therefore in charge of a small city and one that links this nation with nations around the globe. His accomplishments reflect this global reach.

John piloted the airport through a \$2.4 billion expansion including the construction of a beautiful international terminal, the extension of the Bay Area's major rapid transit line—BART—into the terminal, and the creation of a self-guided tram line. He was instrumental in recruiting Virgin America to establish its headquarters in San Mateo County, bringing jobs at a time when the economy desperately needed an injection of investment. John Martin has also worked closely with my office to prove that a third-party contractor operating airport screening services can, if the contract is structured and supervised well, provide superior service to passengers.

All airport directors have dreams but when their construction projects go awry, some have nightmares as well. In contrast, John successfully undertook the largest public works project of the era. Terminal 2 was rebuilt and now serves as the launching point for Virgin America and American Airlines. The FAA has a new and beautiful tower at SFO, designed by John's staff and built, as is true of all work at the airport, using highly skilled union labor that

proves its value with every weld, hammer blow or polished surface.

As he explained to me a few weeks ago during a security tour of the airport, fair wages and working conditions materially contribute to airport security. Instead of a revolving door of disgruntled employees, SFO is notable for trying to create a healthy atmosphere where people may earn their livings safely and with dignity. Indeed, there's an ordinance to assure a livable wage.

SFO will soon undertake \$4.3 billion in construction leading to a new four star hotel, the redevelopment of Terminal 1 and the boarding area of Terminal 3, and an extension of the AirTrain system. This 10 year capital improvement program will bring more than 36,000 construction jobs to San Mateo County.

The airport's finances are in excellent shape, in part because of John's dedication to earning extra money from passengers shopping at the airport's various shops. It is rumored that his retail managers have their own version of a biblical admonition: "It is easier for a rich man to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for an airport visitor to pass by a See's candy store."

John is a gifted public policy leader in the Bay Area, supporting California's high speed rail system to relieve pressure on his airport, advocating for mass transit throughout the Bay Area, and encouraging coordination between his airport and the other two major airports in our region. He was the founding president of the California Airports Council and served on the executive board of the Bay Area Council, a major public policy advocacy organization.

I was once walking through a terminal with him and he paused momentarily to pick up a piece of trash and tossed it into the wastebasket. A few steps later he noticed that a door wasn't working and phoned airport staff to have it dealt with immediately. Farmers are often noted for the pride that they take in tilling their own fields. John is an excellent farmer and rightfully proud of the field called San Francisco International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, we wish John Martin well in his next phase in life. Hopefully he will now have the time to travel and to reflect upon his public service. I feel privileged to have served with him and I submit, given all his outstanding contributions, that one of the terminals should be named after him. He deserves to be acknowledged and remembered for the accomplishments of his career that will endure beyond his own era at San Francisco International Airport.

HONORING MS. MARGARET
"MAGGIE" OWEN POOLE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to honor the life of Ms. Margaret "Maggie" Owen Poole, of Max Meadows, Virginia, who passed away on September 7, 2016. She was born November 22, 1932, daughter of the late William N. and Lula Metcalf Owen.

I was always impressed with Maggie's work ethic and energy. Elected in 2007 to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, she

spent her life dedicating time and effort to her community. Maggie was the first to offer a helping hand to someone in need, and she put forth astounding effort in every task she undertook. In remarks at her funeral, it was said that folks “felt certain that she is up in Heaven reorganizing things.” This is a true reflection of how Maggie lived her life. She will be remembered for her generosity and hard work.

Maggie will also be remembered for her strong opinions, which she shared confidently without reservation. With Maggie, you never had to wonder where you stood. She was a woman of many interests; a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, an avid bridge player, and a substitute teacher at George Wythe High School for many years. Maggie was a strong advocate for Wythe County. From her efforts to pave dirt roads, to her devotion to the development of the industrial site Progress Park, she tirelessly supported creation of local jobs and the betterment of her community. In addition to her position on the Board of Supervisors, Maggie was active in the Wythe County Republican Party, a Wythe County Extension Volunteer, and the recipient of the Honorary FFA State Farmer Degree.

Maggie was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Stuart Poole and her grandson, Tom Poole. She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Jay and Shelly Poole of Richmond, VA, Owen Poole and Liz Verhalen of Kingsport, TN; daughter and son-in-law, Billie Jean and Kurt Elmer of Bedford, VA; four grandchildren, Mary Elmer of Raleigh, NC, Kate and Brandon Turner of Christiansburg, VA, Morgan Poole of Minneapolis, MN and Adele Poole of Kingsport, TN; two brothers, James E. Owen of Rural Retreat, VA, Calvin and Diane Owen of Wilmington, NC; brother-in-law, Charles R. Poole of Birmingham, AL; sister-in-law, Faye Poole of Moneta, VA; several nieces and nephews.

Maggie will be missed deeply by her family and loved ones. I know the Wythe County community will miss her hard work and numerous contributions. However, she will be remembered for the efforts she made to improve her community.

On behalf of those who had the pleasure of knowing her, we thank her for her tireless service.

HONORING JACOB WETTERLING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, twenty-seven years ago, every parent's nightmare became a painful reality for Jerry and Patty Wetterling. On October 22, 1989, Jacob Erwin Wetterling was kidnapped while riding his bike in St. Joseph, Minnesota, and his abduction remained unsolved until last week.

I was a judge in Houston, Texas where many of my cases involved horrific abuse of children. I clearly remember the day of Jacob's abduction, and I also recall and honor the work of his parents, Patty and Jerry, that literally changed how we view child protection in America.

Patty Wetterling became a fierce advocate for child safety, and her heroic efforts led to the creation of sex offender registries in all 50

states and here in DC. Patty and Jerry founded the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center to educate and assist families and communities to address and prevent the exploitation of children.

When Jacob's remains were found earlier this month, the shock to America—and to countless advocates who work to help child victims and survivors—was profound. Our hearts ached for Jacob's family. And then our hearts were truly inspired by their response, and their challenge, to us all.

Patty Wetterling has said of Jacob, “He's taught us all how to live, how to love, how to be fair and how to be kind.” Last week, she encouraged us all to emulate Jacob Wetterling's too-brief life by simply doing #11forJacob:

1. Be fair
2. Be kind
3. Be understanding
4. Be honest
5. Be thankful
6. Be a good sport
7. Be a good friend
8. Be joyful
9. Be generous
10. Be gentle with others
11. Be positive

If we ALL practiced #11forJacob on a daily basis, our Nation—and our communities and homes and schools—would be a much better place to live. Jacob and his family inspire us to just do and be better.

As the Co-Founder and Chair of the U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I honor Jacob Wetterling by encouraging you to honor the legacy of his life. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DIMITRIS “JD” FOTOPOULOS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and honor the life of Franklin Firefighter, Dimitris “JD” Fotopoulos, who passed away while serving as a missionary in Honduras.

Dimitris was a Michigan native who transferred to Tennessee. He began working with the Franklin Fire Department in 2007. During his time with the department, Fotopoulos was awarded a Unit Citation for Valorous Conduct in 2010 after the heroic rescue of a woman from a home engulfed in flames. He also earned three Phoenix Awards for saving the lives of three individuals in cardiac arrest. Dimitris will forever be remembered as a hero to those he served and worked with.

We are thankful to Dimitris “JD” Fotopoulos for his service to the City of Franklin and the Seventh District of Tennessee. His life and legacy will serve as testament to many and will bring inspiration to all who decide to become public servants.

HONORING THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY AT SETON HOSPITAL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Daughters of Charity Health System as it turns over ownership of Seton Hospital in Daly City to Integrity Healthcare and Blue Mountain Capital Management. The Daughters leave Seton having contributed mightily to the health care of 1.5 million residents in San Francisco and San Mateo counties. Hundreds of thousands of patients have come through the doors of Seton since 1986, when the Daughters assumed responsibility for the hospital.

Seton Hospital Daly City began its existence as Mary's Help Hospital in San Francisco in 1912. As of 2011, with 357 licensed beds, 1,500 staff, over 400 physicians, 4,800 surgical cases and 28,000 emergency visits annually, Seton Hospital was mission central for medical care in northern San Mateo County. During this time, the Daughters of Charity worked aggressively to meet their mission of providing care for the poor, as evidenced by the annual \$30 million of community benefit that the hospital offered. Nearly \$50 million of care was offered to the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, the hospital is a Gold Certified Stroke Center and in 2013 received awards from the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California for reducing deaths from sepsis. Among its key services are cardiovascular, oncology, and orthopedics. Its coastal hospital, Seton Coastside, provides 116 skilled nursing facility beds for our elderly. Even as the recession took its toll on the finances of Seton and the Daughters, the institution persevered. Children were born, broken bones were set, cancer went into remission, blood clots were cleared so that hearts began to beat normally again, and hope was reborn each day at Seton Hospital in Daly City. The physicians and staff of this wonderful institution are beloved, and justifiably so.

It is not easy to operate a modern American hospital. Our Medicare rates impose strict financial discipline and our Medicaid program offers reimbursements that are an insult to our nation's conscience. We hope that health insurance for more persons will improve access to health care and ultimately boost health outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, after many decades of service in the north county and on the coast, the Daughters of Charity have decided to transition the administration to a different organization. In our community, the Daughters have acted with integrity and been resourceful despite the odds. Now, as the Daughters of Charity transition from ownership of Seton they will leave the community knowing that they served us exceptionally well. We thank the Daughters of Charity for seeing a purpose for their organization in serving San Francisco and San Mateo counties. Their hilltop temple to modern medicine will now be operated by someone else, but their dedication to our lives and to our families will be remembered and honored for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J.
AREIAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of John J. Areias who recently passed away at age 95. John was a wonderful father, grandfather, husband, dairyman, and friend, whose commitment to improving the San Joaquin Valley can be matched only by his depth of love toward those close to him.

Born on April 27, 1921 to Jess and Genevieve, John was a first generation Portuguese-American from Volta, California. His family moved from Portugal's Azores Islands to California to start their dairy operation. John's father put \$10 down on 640 acres of land in western Merced County, where John spent much of his youth learning how to be a dairyman alongside his eight siblings. He was the valedictorian of Volta elementary and graduated from Los Banos High School in 1940.

John had an insatiable hunger for community involvement, which began with his high school's student government and the Future Farmers of America (FFA). His leadership position in the FFA granted him many opportunities early on, one of which called on him to present cattle at the California State Fair. This is also where he would meet the love of his life, Mary, whom he married shortly thereafter. John and his brother Jess then moved on to begin their own dairy, which quickly became the first grade-A dairy in the Los Banos Dairy-men's Association. Eventually their dairy became one of the biggest and most successful in California, but they never lost sight of the role family should play in their business. John's children played the same part that he did when he was younger, lending a hand in

day-to-day dairy operations to support the family business.

John was also very politically active in Central California Democratic circles. Because he understood that coming from an immigrant family, as a first generation American, that as a part of citizenship it was important to be involved. He served as Chairman of the Merced County Democratic Central Committee and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1960, where then Senator John F. Kennedy earned the nomination of his party as candidate for President of the United States. John was also a devout Catholic, serving as the Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus.

John is survived by his four children, Marcia, Lucia, Kathleen, and Rusty, all of whom left John immensely proud of their success. He is also succeeded by his five grandchildren, Evan, Nick, Bianca, Alexis and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleges to join me in memorializing the life of John J. Areias. His outstanding character as an entrepreneur, family man, and friend will be remembered fondly by those who knew him. He was a leader in California's agricultural community and a role model for the people of the San Joaquin Valley. His life is a testament to the immigrant's story, which is the strength of the American dream. I join John's family in honoring his life, love for our community, and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday September 13, 2016, I was unable to vote on roll

call vote No. 502: Passage of H.R. 3590, the Halt Tax Increases on the Middle Class and Seniors Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call numbers 502, 501, 500, 499, and 498, I would have voted NO.

On roll call numbers 504 and 503, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 496. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 496.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 508 (Rep. Boustany amendment). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 508.